



## BUILDING Bridges

### DEH CHO BRIDGE

After nearly 50 years of discussions and debate, the construction of the Deh Cho Bridge is about to begin. On Friday, August 24th, the community of Fort Providence celebrated the decision to proceed.

The celebration began at the construction site with a ceremonial feeding of the fire and river. That was followed by the traditional sod-turning which, in this case, was the turning of the first gravel pad. Later, Transportation Minister Menicoche led the crowd in a drum dance. Following the opening celebration, the community gathered at the Community center for official speeches, entertainment, and a community feast.



The future Deh Cho Bridge.

In his remarks, Transportation Minister Menicoche praised the initiative of his department and the community. "When you look at all the hurdles that had to be overcome, both sides did an outstanding job in completing the analyses and plans that led to this decision," said Minister Menicoche.

Other speakers included Premier Joe Handley, Commissioner Tony Whitford, and representatives of the partners of the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation. They spoke of the value of the collaborations they have had together, as well as of the Public-Private Partnership (P3) approach that led to the decision to build the Bridge.

Deputy Minister Russell Neudorf also attended the ceremonies. He was pleased the project had reached this milestone. "Once the Bridge is completed, in late 2010, travel delays due to unexpected interruptions in ferry service and uncertain operation dates for the ice crossing will be a thing of the past. That is certainly worth celebrating!"

### BISON AWARENESS

Fall is here. Every fall, bison collisions on the highway are at their highest. Most of these collisions are avoidable. Please take these precautions to make sure you arrive safely.

1. **Drive according to the conditions.** Reduce speed at dusk and night, and when road conditions are less than ideal.
  2. Whenever possible, **avoid driving after dusk** on the highways on which bison can be found.
- Remember that the fall is the hardest time of the year to see bison. **Be aware, be safe, and Drive Alive!**

### SAFETY TIP *Back to School*

Back to school means more children walking and biking on our roads. Younger children may lack the skills to negotiate traffic safely; motorists need to take special care while driving. Help our children arrive safely by following these important safety rules:

1. **Reduce speed** in schools zones, at all hours, every day.
2. When you see children, **be prepared to stop quickly**. Make eye contact - they may not notice oncoming traffic.
3. **Be patient!** Wait for children to complete their crossing before proceeding.
4. **Stop** when you approach a school bus with flashing lights from either direction.



### OPENING OF MARTIN RIVER BRIDGE

On July 21, 2007, Transportation Minister Kevin Menicoche was joined in Fort Simpson by DoT staff, community leaders, and the contractor in a ribbon cutting ceremony to open the Martin River Bridge.



Ribbon cutting at the Martin River Bridge

The new bridge is designed to improve safety and accommodate increases in traffic volumes. The ramps on each side of the bridge are built so that traffic will approach the span straighter, creating better lines of sight for motorists.

The department undertook the replacement as part of its ongoing review of important infrastructure. "This new bridge will accommodate the increased loads, and should help reduce the number of accidents," said Minister Menicoche.

### KAKISA BRIDGE RESTRICTIONS

Restrictions on traffic across the Kakisa Bridge, near the junction of highway 1 and 3, are in effect. Drivers should exercise care and attention when approaching and crossing the bridge.

### ACDP 2007

Each year, the Aviation Career Development Program offers \$5,000 bursaries to NWT students pursuing a career in northern aviation.



ACDP Recipients & Sponsors.

The Department of Transportation and Canadian North have been the principal funders for the program, with support from the Northern Air Transport Association. In 2007, the number of bursaries available was increased from eight to twelve as two new sponsors - Discovery Air and Adlair Aviation - agreed to provide additional funding.

Applicants for the bursary submit their scholastic history, career plan, an essay explaining their interest in a career in the aviation industry, and two letters of recommendation.

Congratulations to 2007 recipients Toby Stefure, Lanita Thrasher, Andrew Hoover, Angela Tucker, Colleen O'Connor, Pierre Corriveau, Jessica Kokoszka, and Devon Woodward.